

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07

EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 A-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 HUD-01

SAJ-01 SCCT-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5029

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 6891

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA ON CURRENT SITUATION

REF: LISBON 6871 DTG 191150Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: IN NOV 19 DISCUSSION WITH LABATT, LABOR MINISTER ROSA,  
THE COMMUNISTS PRIME TARGET, GAVE UPBEAT VIEW OF HIS OWN AND  
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AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE. STATING THAT THERE

WOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THE CABINET, ROSA NOTED THAT GOP IS PLANNING SERIES OF IMPORTANT POLITICAL-MILITARY MEASURES TO REDUCE COMMUNIST AND FAR LEFT INFLUENCE IN THE MEDIA AND THE MILITARY -- INCLUDING THE REPLACEMENT OF BG OTELO CARVALHO AS LISBON REGIONAL COMMANDER.

1. MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA TOLD LABATT DURING TWO-HOUR MEETING NOV 19 HE IS GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC REGARDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. OTELO DOWNGRADED: ROSA SAID OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO HAS BEEN REMOVED AS COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY REGION OF LISBON. HE RETAINS COMMAND OF COPCON BUT WILL NOT HAVE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF TROOPS EXCEPT DURING WAR OR EMERGENCIES AS THE FOUR REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS ARE BEING GIVEN OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER THE TROOPS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS. GROUP OF NINE PROPOSED CAPTAIN VASCO LOURENCO FOR THE POST OF MILITARY COMMANDER OF LISBON REGION BUT THIS WAS VETOED BY GENERAL FABIAO, POSSIBLY SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF STAFF. FABIAO IS PROPOSING A COLONEL, UNKNOWN TO THE NINE, AS LISBON MILITARY COMMANDER. THEY ARE WITHHOLDING THEIR APPROVAL UNTIL THEY HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NOMINEE, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY WAS SERVING IN ANGOLA.

3. OTHER MILITARY CHANGES: THE LEFTIST COMMANDER OF THE LISBON AREA MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, COLONEL CAMPOS ANDRADE, IS BEING REPLACED BY AN OFFICER FROM ANGOLA (ARUMERA) WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO ROSA AND AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE. MAJOR DENIS DE ALMEIDA, FAR LEFT OPERATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE RALIS REGIMENT, IS GOING TO LOURENCO MARQUES AS MILITARY ATTACHE. THE INEFFECTIVE COMMANDER OF THE INFANTRY SCHOOL AT MAFRA IS ALSO BEING REPLACED. ON NOV 23 COLONEL ALMENDRO FROM ANGOLA WILL ARRIVE BY TROOP TRANSPORT WITH FOUR OR FIVE COMPANIES OF RELATIVELY WELL DISCIPLINED PARATROOPERS AND COMMANDERS. HE IS AN EXCELLENT OFFICER AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BOLSTER THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL.

4. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO DISBANDING BOTH COPCON AND AMI AND TURNING CONTROL OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES OVER TO SECURITY POLICE (PSP) AND PARAMILITARY GNR. BOTH PSP AND GNR HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED ISSUANCE OF AUTOMATIC G-3 RIFLES AND ADDITIONAL  
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G-3'S ARE BEING SUPPLIED TO THEM. CONSIDERABLE RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT IS ON HAND AND MORE IS BEING ORDERED. ROSA COMMENTED THAT GETTING MILITARY OUT OF CROWD CONTROL BUSINESS, FOR WHICH IT IS NOT EQUIPPED, WAS A POSITIVE STEP.

5. PRIME MINISTER'S PLANS: ROSA SAID PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING A PLAN TO SPLIT THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND CREATE A NEW MINISTRY OF

HOUSING. THIS WOULD ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO OFFER AN ADDITIONAL CABINET POSITION TO COMMUNIST PARTY. AS COUNTERBALANCE, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE WOULD ALSO BE SPLIT WITH THE NEW MINISTRY OF CULTURE GOING TO THE SOCIALISTS. ROSA THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT SOME ALTERATION IN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD OCCUR THIS WEEK.

6. ROSA'S SITUATION: ROSA RECOGNIZES HE IS THE PRIME TARGET FOR COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON THE SIXTH GOVERNMENT. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING NOVEMBER 18 WAS SCENE OF HARSH WORDS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER VEIGA DE OLIVEIRA (COMMUNIST). ROSA TOLD OLIVEIRA HE WOULD NOT RESIGN EITHER FROM COUNCIL OR FROM ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. OTHER MINISTERS SIDED WITH ROSA AGAINST OLIVEIRA, WHO ENDED BY APOLOGIZING.

7. ROSA SATISFIED HE HAS POLITICAL SUPPORT: ROSA SAID PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO CALLED HIM TO HIS OFFICE YESTERDAY TO TELL HIM THAT HE HAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S FULL SUPPORT. SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES INVITED ROSA FOR LUNCH NOV 18 TOGETHER WITH FINANCE MINISTER SALGADA ZENHA AND EMPHASIZED THE SOCIALISTS WOULD BACK HIM IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. LEADER OF POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY SA CARNEIRO GAVE ROSA GOOD SUPPORT AT RALLY IN VISEU ON NOV 16 WHEN ROSA SPOKE TO CROWD OF 30,000 IN REPRESENTATION OF PRIME MINISTER.

8. RESERVED OPTIMISM: ROSA COMMENTED THAT IF THE SIXTH GOVERNMENT SHOULD FLOUNDER IT WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT OF SIMILAR ORIENTATION. A LEFTIST GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LAST MORE THAN TWO WEEKS DUE TO THE STRONG OPPOSITION IT WOULD GENERATE. THE UNITED MILITARY FRONT (FRENTE UNICA MILITAR - FUM) IS A CREATION OF THE GROUP OF NINE AND IS GAINING FORCE.

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9. CIVIL DISTURBANCES: ROSA SAID THAT AT THE TIME THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BESEIGED SAO BENTO PALACE, THE COMMANDOS WERE READY TO MOVE OUT OF THEIR BASE AND TO DISPERSE THE CROWD. ROSA THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD THAT THEY WERE NOT CALLED UPON TO DO SO FOR THIS WOULD HAVE LEFT THEM VULNERABLE TO CHARGES OF BEING "FASCISTS" WHICH COULD ULTIMATELY DESTROY THEIR EFFECTIVENESS -- JUST AS THE PARATROOPERS WERE RENDERED INEFFECTIVE AFTER THEY BLEW UP RADIO RENASCENCA. IF GOVERNMENT COULD BREAK COMMUNIST CONTROL OF MEDIA THEN IT NEED NOT FEAR LEFTIST ALLEGATIONS AND COULD USE ITS FORCES MORE FREELY.

10. DECISION TO NATIONALIZE MEDIA: ROSA STATED THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAD ALREADY AGREED ON THE COMPLETE NATIONALIZATION OF ALL RADIO STATIONS, PLUS THE TELEVISION, AND THE NEWSPAPER "O SECULO." MINISTRY OF SOCIAL

COMMUNICATIONS IS CURRENTLY DRAFTING DECREE. AT PRESENT TIME GOVERNMENT THEORETICALLY HAS CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THESE ENTITIES BUT IS UNABLE TO EXERCISE EDITORIAL CONTROL. COMPLETE NATIONALIZATION WILL ENABLE GOVERNMENT TO EXERT EFFECTIVE CONTROL THROUGH FISCAL MEANS. WHILE GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY UNABLE TO MAKE STICK ITS DECISION TO FIRE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL NEWS SERVICE, ANOP, AS THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT DISMISSAL, THIS DOES NOT JUSTIFY RISK OF MILITARY INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, INTERVENTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE JUSTIFIED TO ENFORCE NATIONALIZATION OF SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF MEDIA.

11. DYNAMICS WITHIN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS: ROSA IS DISAPPOINTED IN MELO ANTUNES WHOM HE SAYS IS INDECISIVE, AFRAID TO ALIENTATE THE COMMUNISTS, A POOR DEBATER, AND WEAK IN HIS CONVICTIONS. ANTUNES VERY MUCH WANTS TO BE PRIME MINISTER BUT RECOGNIZES THAT HE NEEDS SUPPORT FROM MILITARY REPRESENTED BY PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO. THE PRIME MINISTER, ON OTHER HAND, LIKES HIS JOB AND WILL DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO HOLD ONTO IT. THIS INCLUDES BEING AFRAID OF ALLEGATIONS FROM LEFT THAT HE IS A REACTIONARY AND IS SELLING OUT TO THE RIGHT. FOR THIS REASON, AND FACT THAT HE IS CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY COMMUNISTS IN HIS PERSONAL STAFF, PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO IS NOT AS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE PCP AS IS COMMONLY THOUGHT.

12. COMMENTS ON OTHER MINISTERS: ROSA STATED THAT FINANCE MINISTER SALGADO ZENHA IS A STRONG FIGURE IN THE CABINET.

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VICTOR CRESPO IS ANOTHER STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST INFLUENCE ALTHOUGH HE WAS BADLY WRONG IN FAVORING RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA, LARGELY FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP. THE COMMUNIST MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, OLIVEIRA, IS A SPY WHO IS DOING ALL HE CAN TO SABOTAGE THE GOVERNMENT. ROSA OBSERVED THAT WHILE UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT AN ALL TIME HIGH, THE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY RECEIVES NO CRITICISM FROM THE MEDIA FOR DELAYING AND REFUSING TO INITIATE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

13. COMMENT: IF INDEED GOP IS ABLE TO AVOID SACRIFICING ROSA AND CAN CARRY OUT THE MEASURES ROSA DESCRIBED, IT WILL BE A MAJOR ADVANCE IN GOVERNMENT'S STEP-BY-STEP EFFORT TO CUT DOWN THE COMMUNISTS.

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